

## Tourism Industry in Uzbekistan: Problems and Development Trends

Axrorov Damir Aslam o'g'li

Student of Tashkent State University of Law

Akhrorov0303@gmail.com

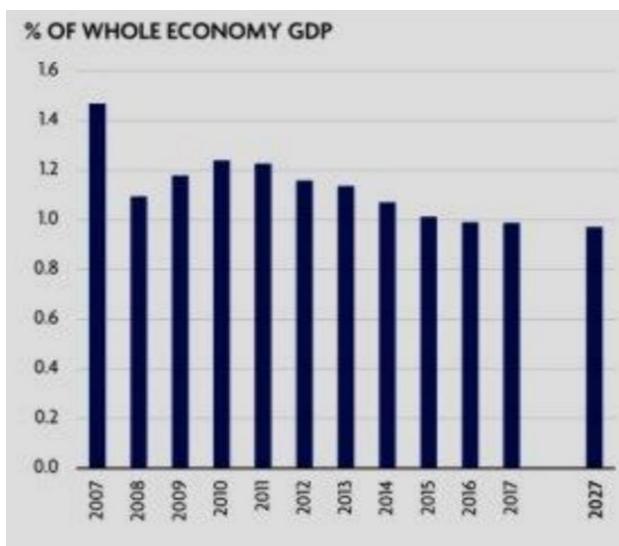
**Abstract:** The cultural and historical artifacts of Uzbekistan are numerous and are regarded as works of global civilizational heritage. Travel and tourism are considered to be the world's top two export industries since they both encourage the growth of the nation's infrastructure, have a good impact on the economy, promote local culture, and help diversify it.

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan, UNWTO, cultural heritage, enormous potential, tourism and tourist infrastructure.

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The current situation of the hospitality and tourist industries in the CIS countries has not been thoroughly researched and utilised to build more affordable and mentality-compatible international travel [1].

The opinions of not just potential visitors but also travel agents and businesses when presenting proposals for tourism products to customers could be greatly affected by missing information about contemporary tourism resources developed in recent decades. Even though the Republic of Uzbekistan boasts a variety of tourist attractions, a global layperson may not necessarily be aware of them all.



**Pic. 1. The contribution of tourism to the GDP of Uzbekistan.**

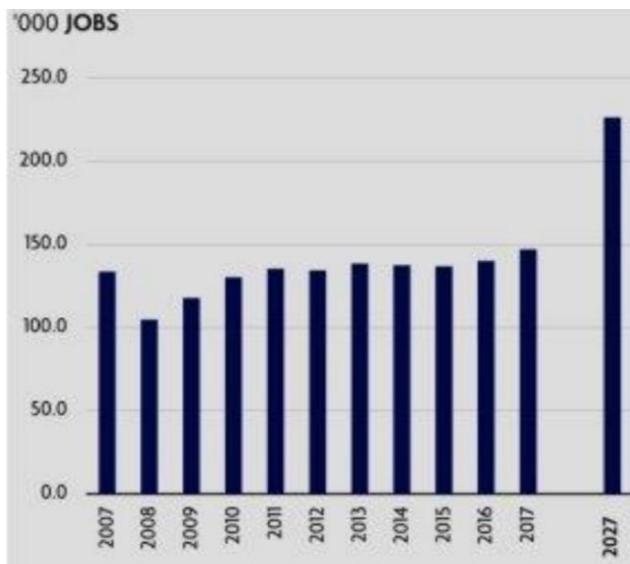
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Using the methods of statistical analysis of the development of the tourism and hospitality industry, it is possible to establish real significant changes in the tourism industry of Uzbekistan over the past decades.

Due to the growth of international tourism and the enhancement of private enterprise and small company in Uzbekistan, the country's international tourism sector currently actually offers

accommodations in a range of comfort levels and pricing ranges [2]. The media regularly informs many customers about fresh variations of this service.

A decree "On measures to ensure the accelerated development of the Republic of Uzbekistan's tourism industry" was signed by the president of the country. This decree designates the tourist industry as a strategic economic sector. The main focus is on making it a vital area of the state economy's sustainable growth, the efficient utilization of the potential for tourism in the regions, and enhancing the impact of tourism on raising the standard of living and prosperity of the populace. The tourist sector in Uzbekistan is incredibly promising. About 7,000 historical sites may be found throughout the nation, the majority of which are listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Despite its enormous potential, Uzbekistan's tourism infrastructure falls short of current standards. The employment rate, the service portion of the tourism business, and the contribution of tourism to the nation's GDP are all below average globally.



**Pic. 2. Employment in the tourism sector.**

Uzbekistan is rich in objects of cultural and historical heritage, which are considered the property of world civilization.

In accordance with the statute of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the conservation and use of cultural heritage artifacts," the state looks after the meticulous preservation of historical objects: The Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Uzarkhiv Agency under the Cabinet Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and local authorities carry out state administration in the areas of protecting and using cultural heritage artifacts. The State Committee for the Development of Tourism in the Republic of Uzbekistan was founded by order of the President [3].

The Committee performs a number of tasks and functions to radically reform the industry. The key change was the radical liberalization of the state's visa policy, which provides for the following rules: - the abolition of the visa regime for 27 countries until January 1, 2021; - tourists pay a fee of \$50 upon entry; – Uniform tourist visas for all countries have been introduced; - introduction of an electronic visa system from 2021, etc. All these measures are aimed at improving the tourist infrastructure and increasing the country's attractiveness for foreign tourists. It is noteworthy that Uzbekistan was listed as one of the top 10 "hottest" tourist destinations by the British journal Financial Times. On this list, Uzbekistan came in second.

On May 19, 2017, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution "On measures to accelerate the development of the tourism potential of the city of Bukhara and the Bukhara region for 2017-2019. According to the decree of the President, new tourist routes will be created in the city of Bukhara and the Bukhara region and measures will be taken to develop new types of tourism [4].

The number of foreign tourists expected to visit will double. Since joining the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 1993, Uzbekistan has fulfilled all of the organization's obligations and is a full member of the UNWTO. Every year, all member states' statistics are released by the UNWTO Barometer. The GDP of Uzbekistan only includes 2% of tourism. The share of tourism fluctuates from 10% to 45%, even though Uzbekistan is a country with a great potential. A high level of efficiency in the growth of the tourism business and a clear description of government tasks in this field characterize tourism management in industrialized nations [5]. The formation of a new committee will be a significant step in the growth of the Uzbek tourist industry, according to a study of worldwide experience.



**Pic. 3. Export visitors and international tourist arrivals.**

The export of visitors is considered the most important component of Travel&tourism. In 2017, 1,857,000 international tourists visited Uzbekistan, showing an increase of 4.6%. The forecast for 2027 is 3,903,000. Capital investments in 2016 amounted to 1.008.0 billion soums. In 2017, the indicator increased by 7.4%, forecasts for 2027 amounted to 1.933.8 billion soums.

Travel and tourism are regarded as the top export industry globally, for the countries of Central Asia, including [6]. This is because tourism encourages the development of the nation's infrastructure, has a significant positive impact and aids in economic diversification, supports local culture, and supports other structures of the tourism infrastructure.

The most ancient cities, through which the Great Silk Road passed, are located precisely on today's territory of Uzbekistan. Cities like Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, Shakhrisabz, Margilan today are the main directions of the tourist flow. The creation of new tourist destinations, such as pilgrimage tourism, the creation of a "golden ring", which includes the tourist cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Fergana, will increase the country's tourist attractiveness.

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